Amendments to the Claims:

1.- 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a retinal disease, comprising inserting in a subretinal space of a patient in need thereof a composite comprising amniotic membrane and a plurality of retinal pigment epithelial cells **or retinal pigment epithelial equivalent cells** ~~present at~~ **on** the membrane.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the number of retinal pigment epithelial cells **or retinal pigment epithelial equivalent cells** ~~present at~~ **on** the membrane is from about 16,000 to about 20,000 per 4 mm^2.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the retinal disease that is treated is selected from the group consisting of retinal detachment, gyrate atrophy, ~~and~~ choroideremia**, and age-related macular degeneration**.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein the amniotic membrane is human amniotic membrane.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein the retinal pigment epithelial cells comprise cells cultured on the amniotic membrane.

48. The method of claim 42, wherein the composite further comprises a pharmaceutically active molecule.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the pharmaceutically active molecule is selected from the group consisting of growth factors, enzymes, and therapeutic drugs.

50.- 52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the amniotic membrane is epithelially denuded.

54. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the amniotic membrane is intact amniotic membrane comprising a basement membrane and a stroma.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein mesenchymal cells are added to at least one side of the stroma.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the mesenchymal cells are fibroblasts.

57. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the amniotic membrane is treated on at least one side with excimer laser ablation.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the excimer laser ablation alters the thickness of the stromal side or basement membrane side of the amniotic membrane.

59. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the retinal pigment epithelial equivalent cells comprise cells selected from the group consisting of iris pigment epithelial cells, cells that have been immortalized by viral agents or non-viral agents, retinal pigment epithelial cells differentiated from at least one adult or embryonal stem cell, cells derived from neural retinal cells, and cells derived from a ciliary body.

60. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the pharmaceutically active molecule is selected from the group consisting of retinal pigment epithelium-derived growth factor, transforming growth factor-beta, and interleukin-10.

61. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the composite is formed by:

a) applying at least one retinal pigment epithelial cell or retinal pigment epithelial equivalent cell to an amniotic membrane; and

b) culturing the retinal pigment epithelial cell or retinal pigment epithelial equivalent cell on the membrane under conditions suitable for growth for a period of time sufficient to produce a plurality of cultured cells.